

Doubts expressed about the accuracy of school history textbooks

By CY GROSVENOR

Few collections of myths can equal those to be found in the American History textbooks used in grammar schools and high schools. Generations of pupils have read: "Queen Isabella paved her jewels to raise the money to provide Christopher Columbus with ships for his voyage." No most processor ever manufactured such pure baloney! The queen's jewels were, at that time, in lock to bankers as security for loans to pay for Spain's wars to drive the Moors from the country. Isabella pressed ship owners into loaning Columbus ships for his voyage.

Benjamin Franklin The history books students use tell of Benjamin Franklin's famous kite experiment and name him "The discoverer of electricity." He wasn't. William Gilbert discovered and named electricity more than a hundred years before Franklin was born.

By Franklin's time the Leyden jar had been invented and "professors" traveled about the American Colonies giving electrical demonstrations. Franklin was intensely interested in electricity and made significant contributions to the science. He made improvements to the Leyden jar, coined the terms "positive" and "negative" and after he had noted that pointed metal objects attracted electricity, invented the lightning rod, but he didn't "discover electricity." His kite experiment only proved that lightning is an electrical discharge.

Paul Revere "One if by land and two if by sea; And I on the opposite shore will be. Ready to ride and spread the alarm Through every Middlesex village and farm."

So wrote Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in his poem "The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere." Every school history textbook repeats the same story that Paul Revere's (Apollon River) walked alone for the signal lanterns to be hung in the steeple of the Old North Church. He didn't. Beside him was another horseman who, when the lights were "shut," also rode to warn the patriots of the coming of the British. Revere's fellow rider was William Dawes, the forgotten man of American history.

It is only those historians who are

mistaking in their research that mention Dawes, one of them is H.G. Wells in his "Outline of History," page 87.

Bunker Hill Every school history book tells of the Battle of Bunker Hill. Bunk it is, as a peninsula across the water from Boston were three rises. These elevations were known as "Breed's Hill," "Moulton's Hill," and "Bunker's Hill." The British map-makers, Wheeler and Grant, incorrectly identified these hills. As a result of their errors the battle of Breed's Hill has gone down in history as "the Battle of Bunker Hill."

Every history student has read the tale of "The bitterly cold winter" Washington and his troops spent at Valley Forge and seen pictures of soldiers huddling over a fire, trying to keep warm. Both are gross exaggerations. When the British and the Army spent at Valley Forge (1777-78) was relatively mild. The troops were packed in the woods, and the weather was not so bad. The story of the "bitterly cold winter" is a myth.

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competence of those charged with the procurement and delivery of them. The winter Washington spent in winter quarters at Morristown, New Jersey (1778-79) was the most severe of the 18th century.

Monitor-Merrimac There is the tired myth of Monitor-Merrimac. An engagement between two such-named ships never took place. It's a fact: there never was a warship of any kind, Union or Confederate, that bore a name spelled M-e-r-r-i-m-a-c.

The Merrimack (once the "M"), a 50-gun frigate, was launched at Boston June 14, 1855. She was named for the New England river that rises in New Hampshire and flows southward into Massachusetts.

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construction of an ironclad, decided that the Merrimack would fill the bill. They raised the sunken ship and towed it to the Cooper Yard in the Elizabeth River. There the hull was used in the building of the Confederacy's first ironclad, the "Virginia."

It was the Virginia that wreaked havoc upon the wooden Union ships in Hampton Roads, March 8, 1862. The following day, when she returned to Newport News, Virginia, the Monitor waiting to do battle.

If there be any disbelievers in Monitor-Merrimac, let them take a trip to Newport News, Virginia. There they'll find depicted in the pages of the Monitor-Merrimac, let them take a trip to Newport News, Virginia.

The popularity of the novel "Haise the Titanic" has aroused interest in the ship's history. (See the label of the great sea disaster of April 14-15, 1912. In countless newspapers and magazine articles and in hundreds of books, including school textbooks, it has been stated that the vessel sank after it had "struck" an iceberg. "Strike" means to come into forcible contact or collision. The Titanic only grazed the iceberg. That what gave it its fatal wound. A projecting underwater ice shelf tore a long slash in the ship's side.

The 20th Century-Fox version of the famous sinking, starring Clifton Webb and Barbara Stanwyck, has often been shown on television. In one of the final scenes Webb and the boy who plays his son are shown at the

rail of the doomed liner singing the hymn "Nearer My God To Thee," as the band plays in the background. The fallacy: that the ship's band of the Titanic played as its final number "Nearer My God To Thee" has been proved and read so many millions of times that it is a firmly believed as a myth.

The sea historian, John Malcolm Brinman, has written: "The ship's final number was 'Autumn.' The plea of God of Mercy and Compassion. Look with pity on my pain. Hold me up, mighty waters. Keep my eyes on things above."

Other writers: those who took the trouble to interview survivors of the sinking, all agree with Mr. Brinman: that the ship's band played as a last selection "Autumn." Not "Nearer My God To Thee." Among these authors are: Walter Lord - "A Night to Remember" - page 96 and 174, and Mark Sullivan - "Our Times" - page 440 - Vol. 4.

In the British version of the sinking, also often shown on television, the band plays "Autumn."

Asosd hold first place as a writer of the final scene Webb and the boy who plays his son are shown at the

Service marks close of 'Days of Prayer'

Father Michael J. Piccola will close the Days of Prayer at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church. Three days were set aside for prayer, quiet time and reflection about the Eucharist, World Peace, The Value of Life to all of us, together with the continued success of the Synod in Diocese of Scranton. The Prayer Day began on January 23 and will close tonight, January 25, with a festive and prayerful celebration of the liturgy. The homily will be given by Father Piccola, a native of Hazleton, Pa. He completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Scranton, where he has two advanced degrees, both Masters, one in the field of Theology, from St. Mary's Seminary and the other in Religion, from the University of Scranton. He is a full-time assistant pastor at Saint Rose of Lima Church, St. Louis, Mo. He is also the director of

Professional Wrestling Show

World Wrestling Federation Through the sponsorship of the Wymart Volunteer Ambulance Corps Saturday, February 18th Western Wayne High School, 8:00 p.m.

POLISH TAP TEAM MATCH THE WILD SAMOANS "AFA SEERK" IVAN "SPECIAL" PUTSKI INDIAN CHIEF JET STRONGBOY

PAUL ORNDORF VS. S.D. JONES INVADER #1 VS. CHAMLET FULTON

WRESTLING TAP TEAM MATCH THE WILD SAMOANS "AFA SEERK" IVAN "SPECIAL" PUTSKI INDIAN CHIEF JET STRONGBOY

PAUL ORNDORF VS. S.D. JONES INVADER #1 VS. CHAMLET FULTON

Mayfield Businesses

in the Mayfield Businesses... (text continues with list of businesses and services)

Valley Ladies Classic

in the Valley Ladies Classic... (text continues with list of participants and scores)

Mayfield Businesses

in the Mayfield Businesses... (text continues with list of businesses and services)

Valley Ladies

in the Valley Ladies... (text continues with list of participants and scores)

Archbald Commercial

in the Archbald Commercial... (text continues with list of businesses and services)

Valley Ladies

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in the Valley Ladies... (text continues with list of participants and scores)

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Local Bowling Results

Academy Girls

in the Academy Girls... (text continues with list of participants and scores)

Upper Valley Mixed

in the Upper Valley Mixed... (text continues with list of participants and scores)

Newcomers

in the Newcomers... (text continues with list of participants and scores)

Valley Lanes Ladies Classic

in the Valley Lanes Ladies Classic... (text continues with list of participants and scores)

Mayfield Businesses

in the Mayfield Businesses... (text continues with list of businesses and services)

Pioneer Ladies

in the Pioneer Ladies... (text continues with list of participants and scores)

Archbald Commercial

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Valley Ladies

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YMCA senior men's league led by 76'ers

With one week remaining in the first half on the Carbondale YMCA Sr. Men's Basketball League, the 76'ers led by Jerry Borsky added 19 for 18 points. The Club 508 defeated the 76'ers by 19 points. The Club 508 defeated the 76'ers by 19 points. The Club 508 defeated the 76'ers by 19 points.

Over 30 hoop results

Results in the Carbondale YMCA Sr. Men's Basketball League for games Monday January 16 and Wednesday, January 18, are as follows:

Monday the Hilltoppers topped Generac at the buzzer 41-41. Ed Dzielak scored 16 for the winning team. Dennis Fox had 21 for the Generac effort.

Wednesday's first match saw the Dunduff Juggernauts defeat the 76'ers by 19 points. The Dunduff Juggernauts defeated the 76'ers by 19 points. The Dunduff Juggernauts defeated the 76'ers by 19 points.

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John Gill, city native, named general counsel

John J. Gill, Carbondale native, has been named general counsel to the American Bankers Association. Gill, 44, of Carbondale, Pa., was named general counsel to the American Bankers Association. Gill, 44, of Carbondale, Pa., was named general counsel to the American Bankers Association.

Tax Tip Of The Week

You are allowed an annual exclusion of \$10,000 for gifts. If you are 65 or older, the annual exclusion is \$12,000. If you are 65 or older, the annual exclusion is \$12,000. If you are 65 or older, the annual exclusion is \$12,000.

Jon Katherson Shoes and Apparel

40 North Main Street, Carbondale

Men's Work Shoes

Our Entire Stock

WOLVERINE CAROLINA HERMAN

Sizes 6 1/2 to 12

4 DAYS ONLY January 25-26-27-28

STORE HOURS: Monday - Thursday 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM Friday 9:30 AM to 9:00 PM Saturday 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM

MASTER CARD AND VISA ACCEPTED

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